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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00156 100832Z

14
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 /018 W
---------- 000972
R 100648Z FEB 76
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2790
RUEVDFMXFAS USDA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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DAMASCUS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, IZ
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 1977 WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION TO IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE

REF: STATE 13018

1. THEME OF MISSION IS APT. SOME DETAILS OF IRAQ'S PLANS AND PROBLEMS IN FIELD OF IRRIGATION CAN BE DEVELOPED FROM E. PAUL JACOBSON, DRAINAGE, FLOOD CONTROL AND SOIL C
NSERVATION SPEC-
IALIST, HARZO ENGINEERING COMPANY, 150 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606, PHONE 312-855-7000. JACOBSON RECENTLY SPENT EIGHT WEEKS IN IRAQ UNDER UNDP AUSPICES WORKING ON SEVERAL SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO RECLAIM BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR MILLION HECTARES OF CROPLAND OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS. WALTER LEBER OF HARZA'S TEHRAN OFFICE AS WELL AS STAFF FROM CHICAGO HEADQUARTERS HAVE ALSO VISITED IRAQ RECENTLY AT GOI INVITATION TO DISCUSS UPDATING OF MW 8;E DAM PROJECT ON TIGRIS RIVER AT BEKHME IN KURDISTAN. HOPE THAT HARZA MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO TAKE PART IN MISSION AT VERY HIGH CORPORATE LEVEL.
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2. TIMING IS GOOD. HOLIDAYS IN FEBRUARY 1977 ARE ALL FRIDAYS (FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25) AS WELL AS FEBRUARY 8 (LOCAL) AND 21 (U.S.). (IMPOSSIBLE TO FORECAST AIRLINES SCHEDULES IN FEBRUARY 1977, WHICH WILL BE MAJOREACTOR IN DECIDING EXACT DATES.)

3. THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN SAY FOR SURE AT THIS TIME WHETHER, IN ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, GOI WOULD PERMIT VISIT BY MISSION ORGANIZED AND LED AT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IIVEL. IT IS FAR TO EARLY EVEN TO RAISE ISSUE WITH GOI. ANSWER WOULD PROBABLY BE MONTHS IN COMING. IF STANDARD USDOC MISSION FORMAT ULTIMATELY NOT VIABLE, MIGHT BE USEFUL FALL-BACK POSITION TO PLAN FROM BEGINNING INVITE PRESIDENT OF ONE OF THE MORE PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN-ARACHAMBEVHJFF COMMERCE IN SOUTHW WESTERN USA (E.G. HOUSTON) SERVE AS MISSION DIRECTOR, WITH USDOC OFFICIAL AS DEPUTY. BELIEVE MISSION SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1977 WITH DETAILS ABOUT LEADERSHIP LEFT FOR DECISION NINETY DAYS BEFORE MISSION ARRIVES.
WILEY

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